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From: BUSCEMI, JACKIE M
To: 'jjbuscemi@aol.com'
cc:
Subject: FW: Keeping Your Cell Phone Number

-----Original Message-----
From: BONETA, INGRID H
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2003 4:13 PM
To: CLMS - STAFF
Subject: FW: Keeping Your Cell Phone Number

RECEIVED

JUN 1 8 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

-----Original Message-----
From: Ravi Bahl [mailto:ravibahl@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2003 4:00 PM
To: juanlopez1212@yahoo.com
Subject: Fw: Keeping Your Cell Phone Number

FYI - got this very interesting email Read it if you're like me & fed up with your cell phone company, here's your chance to do something about it.

Fw: Subject: Keeping Your Cell Phone Number

FED UP WITH POOR AND COSTLY CELL PHONE SERVICE BUT CAN'T CHANGE YOUR NUMBER FOR VARIOUS REASONS....THEN YOU MUST READ THIS.....

DO YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS LEGISLATION IN PLACE ALLOWING CELL PHONE USERS TO TAKE THEIR NUMBER WITH THEM WHEN THEY SWITCH TELEPHONE COMPANIES?

DO YOU KNOW THAT COMPANIES LIKE SPRINT (www.sprint.com/taxes) HAVE BEEN CHARGING YOU FOR MANY YEARS .48 CENTS EACH MONTH (APPROVED BY THE FCC) FOR LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY AND THE FCC REFUSES TO FORCE THE PHONE COMPANIES TO PROVIDE THE SERVICE WE HAVE BEEN PAYING FOR?

DO YOU KNOW THAT many cell phone users outside the United States, in places such as Britain, Australia and Hong Kong, already have the option of keeping their numbers when they switch carriers?

Read the article below or on CNN COM for more information

What Can You Do?

Two Things: 1. Forward This To Your Family and Friends and
2. Ask them to send a copy of this to the FCC Chairman and other commissioners asking them to take action to protect the small consumers and not the billion dollar phone companies.

How to Contact the FCC

To Contact the Commissioners via E-mail
Chairman Michael K. Powell: mpowell@fcc.gov

Noted for review
6/2/03

Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy: kabernat@fcc.gov
Commissioner Michael J. Copps: mcopps@fcc.gov
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin: kjmweb@fcc.gov
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein: jadelste@fcc.gov

Keeping same number at heart of cell phone fight

Tuesday, April 15, 2003 Posted: 1:24 PM EDT (1724 GMT)

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Cell phone companies asked a federal court Tuesday to block a regulation that would force them to let consumers keep their phone numbers when switching wireless carriers.

Consumer advocates say not being able to retain numbers is one of the biggest barriers preventing more cell phone users from switching in search of better service and prices. Wireless companies say the Federal Communications Commission requirement and its November 24 deadline will raise costs while doing little to increase industry competition.

"It's very speculative to say this even offers consumer benefits," said Andrew McBride, an attorney representing Verizon Wireless and the Cellular Telecommunications and Internet Association, an industry group.

McBride told the three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that the FCC overstepped its authority by imposing the requirement.

A court ruling is not expected for several months.

Congress decided in 1996 that people can keep their traditional local phone numbers when they change phone companies. The FCC decided that wireless carriers would have to offer the same service in the top 100 U.S. cities by June 1999.

The FCC has extended that deadline three times, most recently granting a yearlong extension last summer after Verizon Wireless asked the commission to eliminate the requirement.

"Many consumers tell us that they are not satisfied with their wireless service, but they are unwilling to switch because they can't take their numbers with them," said Chris Murray, an attorney for Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports magazine. He said small businesses and self-employed people are particularly harmed when switching carriers because they lose numbers known by their customers.

"Wireless companies will have stronger incentives to provide better service and lower prices if consumers can take their numbers," Murray said.

Most wireless companies argue that their industry is competitive enough and doesn't need a regulatory boost. They say there are about 145 million U.S. cell phone subscribers and about a third of them change carriers each year.

"The wireless industry is the most competitive telecommunications market on the planet," McBride said after the hearing. He said the expense of providing the number switching service will make it harder to provide better cell phone coverage and cheaper phones.

The wireless industry estimates that the requirement will cost more than \$1 billion in the first year.

and \$500 million each year thereafter.

Many cell phone users outside the United States, in places such as Britain, Australia and Hong Kong, already have the option of keeping their numbers when they switch carriers.

Sprint charges .48 every month for "Number portability Surcharge"

Local Number Portability- (\$.48) (www.sprint.com/taxes)

Number portability allows you to move almost anywhere within your local calling area and keep the telephone number you have today. You can also keep your telephone number if you switch your local service provider. The local number portability surcharge allows telephone companies like Sprint to recover some of the costs for providing this service. All customers regardless of whether they move their telephone number or not must pay this FCC-approved surcharge